



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2023

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Hybrid

- In-person - Town Hall Annex
- Zoom - <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/86495783770>
 - Passcode: 260789

Attending:

- Stewart Ikeda, Cristin Bagnall, Brian McMurray, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Nicole Cuff, Lidia Kenig Scher

Absent:

- Tom Formicola, Beth Locke, Christine Noah

Guests:

- Greta Mastro, Cecily Miller, Jessica Chao, Ilana Brownstein, Katie Luczai, Cat Pedemonti

Agenda

1. Introduction of guests 7:00p-7:05p
 - Jessica Chao and Cat Pedemonti, Ilana Brownstein
 - Guests shared brief introductions and their connection to the arts.
2. For Approval: **February Minutes** 7:05p-7:10p
 - Stewart has Christine's proxy
 - Cristin moves to accept, Sarah seconds, Nicole and Brian abstain, Minutes pass
3. **Minutes & Secretary** 7:10p-7:15p
4. **DPCD & Chair Updates** 7:15p-7:30p
 - Meeting with **Claire Ricker** and share nice new **DPCD testimonial** for FinComm
 - **DPCD Updates:**
 - The Master Planning process is about to begin for 2025; last updated in 2015. DPCD is looking for interested parties to participate, send your interest along to Katie.

- Arlington 250: Lots of grant opportunities available and Cecily has several projects in the works.
 - In 2025, the semiquincentennial recognition of the beginning of the American Revolution. DPCD working with Arlington, Lexington, Lincoln and Concord communities.
 - Fox Library: Revitalization planning in process and they are looking for arts and culture connections.
 - **Cultural District:** New signage update
 - New maps have been printed and are available at the DPCD office.
 - The maps include QR codes to the audio tour!
 - **Greta's** Commissioner seat in process
 - Town Manager's office has confirmed there is not an age restriction. Next will be a meeting with the Town Manager and then an appointment appearance with the Select Board.
 - **Ted Peluso** Memorial
 - Stewart shares our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for Ted Peluso's many contributions and support of arts and culture in Arlington.
4. **Grants Committee update** 7:30p-7:40p
- The Grants Committee is in the process of collecting paperwork from grantees to get them paid.
 - The Grants Committee is looking for additional committee members. Interested folks should reach out to Brian.
5. **Discussion: Finance Committee Presentation** 7:40-8:00p
- We may not end up having to do a formal presentation for FinComm but it's still good to present the budget for everyone's understanding of the process next year.
 - Cristin shares with the Commission the FY25 budget overview prepared for the FinComm.
 - Cristin shares her appointment to the Commission will conclude with this fiscal year, leaving an opening for a new Treasurer.
6. **Community Engagement Updates** 8:00-8:20p
- Well attended Artist Talk with **Alex Cook** filmed by ACMI
 - 13Forest gallery hosted an artist talk by Alex Cook, who recently completed our "You Are Loved" mural in Arlington Heights. Alex shared not only about his public art (he's just completed his 100th "You Are Loved" mural) but also his personal painting.
 - Inquiry from **Girl Scout** Troop re: **Mural**
 - Cristin shares that the adult leaders of a local Girl Scout troop inquired about the availability to create a public electric box mural. Cristin is connecting Laurie with the troop. Cecily suggests they might also consider a storefront window painting project.

- Cecily shares updates on her efforts to approach business owners to identify storefronts and mural location possibilities.
- **Sharing Community Stories Banners**
 - Cecily is working on a project she's calling "Friends and Neighbors" with three artists to tell the stories of community members.
- **Drake Village** project status
- 250 Project Discussion notes – including interest in **NPO Convening**.
- Youth Banners Winners
 - Stewart shares that winners have been selected by a committee outside of ACAC.
- ACAC will be a promotional partner with **Cantilena Chorus** and **Poet Laureate** on April workshop & May concert
- **Poet Laureate Updates**
 - Lidia has been working to rebuild the PL Committee and has helped to recruit Len Diggins to join the committee.
 - The Poet Laureate is applying for a grant from the State, which would allow her to create a new program in partnership with a visual artist.
- The Arlington Heights **Spring Fling Festival** will be March 18th (19th rain date)
- **Storm Drain Paintings**
 - In partnership with DPW, 10 storm drains will be painted over the next two years to help call attention to storm drains and storm drain maintenance.
- **Bikeway Block Party**
 - Being organized by the Friends of the Bikeway in Lexington. Will be something similar to a "Porchfest along the Minuteman Bikeway." It will be Sunday, September 15. Munroe Center ED Cristina Burwell has reached out to ask if we want to partner. We will discuss in Community Engagement.
 - Cecily suggests a connection to Dan Fox as a music programming partner.

7. **New Business** 8:20-8:30p

- Sarah asks if there's a plan to distribute the new Cultural District maps and how she can assist. Stewart shares that maps are being distributed at some newer events and are looking for other opportunities and partners to share them as well.
- Meeting was briefly disrupted by bad actors Zoom bombing; order was restored and the bad actors ejected; ACAC will consult with the Town to investigate a refresher for town committees on procedures for ensuring Zoom security in keeping with Open Meetings law.

Lidia motions to adjourn, Sarah seconds. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourns at 8:22pm.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 4, 2024 from 7:00-8:30p